



July 3, 2010

## **Congressman Filner applauds \$9 million grant for algae biofuels research to UCSD led consortium**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Bob Filner today applauded the announcement of a \$9 million U.S. Department of Energy grant to a UC San Diego led consortium for their research into the use of algae for biofuels.

“This is a major step in making biofuels from algae a viable alternative to fossil fuels,” said Filner, who lent his support to the grant proposal. “We are uniquely situated to take advantage of the abundant natural resources, excellent research facilities and some of the brightest minds in the field. I have no doubt that the next generation of advances in alternative energy will come out of San Diego.”

The \$9 million in federal funds comes on top of \$3 million from a consortium of biotechnology and energy companies, making a total of \$12 million for the three year research effort that will begin this summer, according to UCSD officials.

According to a San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) analysis, research on algal biofuels employs 410 scientists and other workers in San Diego and provides nearly \$28.8 million in payroll and \$56.2 million in economic activity for the region.